Post offices in the country

*195. SHRI J. K. JAIN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of post offices, sub-post offices and branches post offices, etc. at present functioning in the country;

(b) how many of these post offices are located in the rural areas and in the tribal areas, State and Union Territory-wise;

(c) whether any targets have been fixed for opening new post offices in the rural and tribal areas to provide postal facilities to the backward regions; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) As on 30-6-1985, the total number of post offices in the country was 1,44,831 of which 852 were head post offices, 30,271 sub post offices and 1,13,708 branch post offices.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) On account of the continuing ban on creation of posts, it had not been possible to fix definite targets in this regard so far,

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to (c) above.

Oi] and Natural Gas Commission's Assessment of production of oil

*196. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to an Oil and Natural Gas Commission estimate, over 73 per cent pf ihe demand for oil would continue to be met through indigenous production and as against an estimated oil production of 30.22 m. tonnes of oil from indigenous sources during the cm-rent year, the availability woul^ be 40.76 m. tonnes at the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(b) whether Government do not agree with this assessment of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission and if so, what is Government's own assessment in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAVAL KISHORE SHARMA (a) and (b) According to the latest assessment made by the Government about 68 per cent of the country's requirement for consumption would be met through indigenous production during the current year. The indigenous production in the country is expected to be 30.14 million tonnes in the current year. The production in the terminal year of the Seventh Plan is likely to be 34.53 million tonnes.

Issue of second cylinder

*197. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the IOC has recently issued instruction to all its INDANE dealers in Delhi not to issue a secon^ cylinder to the consumers;

(b) if'so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the second cylinder, is likely to be released to the consumers in Delhi especially for those who have got themselves registered with their dealers for the second cylinder for the last 2-3 years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF (PETRQLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA), (a) to (c) Second cylinders have been released liberally in the last few months by Indian Oil Corporation in markets wit pin-type cylinders.